

206 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

accident, he told them, had forced him to make
to them In
writing a communication which he would gladly
have made
from the throne. He had, in the first year of
his reign,
expressed his desire to see an union
accomplished between
England and Scotland. He was convinced
that nothing
could more conduce to the safety and
happiness of both.
He should think it his peculiar felicity if, before
the close of
his reign, some happy expedient could be
devised for
making the two kingdoms one; and he, in
the most
earnest manner, recommended the question to
the consideration
of the Houses,¹

The Seafield Correspondence supplies a fresh
proof of
William's eagerness for the completion of the
union. The
King sent for Seafield four days before he
died.^f My
lord', wrote the Countess of Seafield, 'had a
short adiens
of him on Wadsenday, when he spok very
kyndlie to him
and of the Scots nashion and mighty fordvard
for the
uneion. I am shour ther is no honast or
Cristien Scotsman
bot will be senseabeli of this Ireparabell loss/²

This regret was not universal. One Scottish
historian
says bluntly that the Scots were ^f glad to be rid
of King
William/³ Another confesses that when William
died,^{*} he
was not a popular king In Scotland . . . There
was no class
among his subjects to whom his rule had given
entire satis-
faction ; and the fact may be put to the credit
of his general
policy.⁷ However, 'the main body of his Scottish
subjects

gladly recognised that he had fulfilled the chief objects for which he had been invited to become their king. He had saved Protestantism, given to the nation a church which the majority desired, and substituted a constitutional monarchy

¹ From a fragment on the death of William III (VI, 3000-2 [xxv]). On the attitude of the English Parliament see Marchmont MSS.^f pp. 152, 154-5, and James Mackinnon, *The Union of England and Scotland* (1896), pp. 57-9.

² Seafielcl Correspondence, p. 349.

³ Mackinnon, p. 65.